



Received 7/19/05

## THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

July 8, 2005

Mr. Paul Dabbs  
Statewide Planning Branch  
California Department of Water Resources  
PO Box 94236-0001  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Mr. Dabbs:

The City of San Diego extends sincere congratulations on the completion of the draft California Water Plan 2005 and your extensive public review process. The amount of collaboration and statewide input your agency was able to facilitate over the past several years to arrive at this point is indeed laudable.

As a result of these efforts, the Department of Water Resources has issued a Water Plan that adequately addresses a comprehensive inventory of statewide water issues and identifies a robust list of potential tools for "wringing every bit of utility" from California's available water supplies.

San Diego's municipal Water Department currently provides potable water and reclaimed water to more than 1.3 million ratepayers. Today's water consumption in our city is nearly equal to that of 20 years ago, despite a population increase of 33% within this period.

The City of San Diego is a founding signatory to the California Urban Water Conservation Council's Memorandum of Understanding of 1991 in which we pledged to pursue cost-effective conservation measures. Since that time, we have invested over 40 million dollars in active water conservation programs. Our ratepayers also contribute to additional financing provided by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) for conservation programs in the South Coast that effectively doubles the local dollars available for urban water-use efficiency programs.

With local and regional efforts through the MWD and SDCWA, South Coast residents continue benefiting from integrated regional planning that supports the development of local supplies such as recycling, brackish groundwater desalination, conjunctive use groundwater, off-peak storage programs, voluntary water transfers (such as the IID to SDCWA agreement) and seawater desalination.



### Water Department Director

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San Diego concurs with DWR's Framework for Action as outlined in the draft Water Plan. We must continue to use water efficiently, protect water quality and support environmental stewardship as foundational actions for sustainability. Our agency continues to actively pursue integrated regional water management strategies for optimal utility of our water supplies.

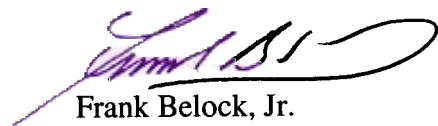
As the draft Water Plan points out, the statewide cost of maintaining the Framework for Action is significant. While the State Water Project may be over 30 years old and the federal Central Valley Project is over 50 years old, our local systems are over 100 years old. Escalating costs associated with the maintenance of an aging infrastructure are an unfortunate reality for all ratepayers, but especially those at the end of the pipeline.

While the Water Plan does not specifically recommend financing solutions, Box 2-6 does address benefit-based approaches for financing as is currently defined. While San Diego remains committed to paying for our fair share of the reasonable costs associated with importing water into our service territories, we would also like recognition for the numerous projects undertaken within Southern California aimed at developing local supplies that offset demands for imported water. These projects are funded by our ratepayers and receive no credit under CALFED's "beneficiary pays" system even though they fall within CALFED's general scope of work.

We trust that should the DWR adopt "user fees" in the future to pay for improving statewide water management systems, that the South Coast's systems and programs will not be omitted from funding consideration.

Once again, we thank you and the rest of your team for an excellent document. We look forward to continued participation in the development of future California Water Plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Frank Belock, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Frank Belock, Jr.  
Water Department Director  
City of San Diego

CP:chr

cc: Marsi A. Steirer, Water Department Deputy Director  
Cathleen Pieroni, Senior Water Resources Specialist